Reduction of IAS/IPS in Central Services

318. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: SHRI T. R. BALU :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to reduce the strength of IAS/IPS personnel in the Central Services;-

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Protest by Norway for supply of Howitzer Guns to India

*319. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Nor way has protested against certain clause in the Sweden's contract signed in 1986 for the supply of howitzers to India, threatening that it would disrupt the supply of Norwegian components for the wea pon ; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the reasons for rais ing the objection by Norway and the reaction of Government with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K.C. PANT): (a) The Government of India have not received any protest from the Norwegian Government in this regard.

(b) Does not arise.

Fijian Entry into Commonwealth

*320. SHRI B. SATYANARA YAN REDDY : Wih the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Fiji has sought for its admission into Commonwealth; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of India and other Commonwealth countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) and (b) Government is not aware of any formal application from Govt, of Fiji seeking re-admission to the Commonwealth. India's stand is that Fiji's re-admission can be consideied only when it has complied with the Commonwealth principles including the one that forbids discrimination on the ground of race. At CHOGM last year, the Commonwealth countries in a statement hoped for a re-solution of the Fiji problem by the people of Fiji on a basis consistent with the principles that have guided the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth ex-pressed its readiness to offer its good offices towards such a resolution and, on such basis, if the circumstances warranted, to consider Fiji's membership if asked to do so.

Child marriages

@2749. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a, whether Government have made any study about the overall

(SPreviously Unstarred Question 2183, transferred from the 12th August, 1988.